Women also should be allowed to vote at elections to the Assembly. Nominations to the Assembly should be made only to give representation to minority communities which had otherwise failed to secure representation. Copies of the Government Gazette should be supplied to members of the Assembly as in olden days.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishna Pillai, I will give a collective answer to all the representations on the subject of the reconstitution of the Assembly.

186. Advancement of local self-government in the State.

MR. A. NAYANAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) pointed out that the administration of many municipalities was suffering for want of sufficient enthusiasm on the part of the members of the councils. They were sometimes influenced by personal considerations, while at other times they were very apathetic in their attitude towards the working of the councils. In the Nagercoil municipality, for instance, when an encroachment had to be removed, the person affected approached some members and influenced them to take sides with him. The result was a split in the Council and the encroachment could not be got removed. These and similar incidents perhaps pointed to the defective nature of the Municipal Regulation. It might be made a condition that only members who have had at least three years' experience should be eligible for election as presidents and vice-pesidents of municipal councils. That would ensure that persons who had some kind of administrative experience would alone come up to fill these places.

A central office should be opened where municipal subordinates should be given training in public health, sanitation etc.

Self-governing bodies should be established in all parts of the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nayanar, you dwelt upon various points connected with the administration of Municipalities. You deplore the fact that members are influenced, or apathetic, and will not take trouble, and as an illustration you mentioned an instance when an encroachment had to be removed and immediately the person affected approached certain of the members of the Municipal Council, created a split in the Council and prevented the necessary work being carried out. These are indications, not of the defects in the Municipal Regulation or of the rules under it, but this is entirely due to lack of responsibility, I might even say of true civic spirit, which has not yet risen to its full height in the matter of municipal administration. You suggest that the chairman and vice-chairman should serve at least for three years as members on the ordinary body of the Council before they are entrusted with the duties of chairman and vice-chairman. The reason you gave for this is that they are lacking in administrative experience. Administrative experience in matters such as this is after all simply only the possession of business and common sense. And a man with

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that business instinct should find no difficulty at all in picking up experience for administering a municipality. At the same time, there is something in what you say that a vakil or a school master, or a landlord, when called upon to undertake this civic function may be at a loss for some time. Your suggestion is worth considering therefore.

You referred to the training of subordinates and how the outside staff should be placed on a different footing from the inside staff, and that they should be taught the necessary subjects, sanitation being one of the subjects. These are matters which I think are better left to the discretion of the Municipalities. You suggest that a central office, or training centre, be opened for the training of these men. It is a matter for the Municipalities of Travancore generally to put their heads together, and, by combind effort, to establish a training institute for their own assistance.

You suggest that the number of local bodies should be increased. Personally I do not think the multiplication of such bodies in each centre is called for. We are now having the roads and canals board and, when occasion arises, possibly in connection with minor irrigation, we shall endeavour to see what agency will best suit those needs. As I observed in reply to another member it is only in South Travancore that we have villages proper. In the rest of Travancore, they are all scattered homesteads. Whether bodies such as you suggest will be adaptabie to those areas is a doubtful question.

While the member was making his representation, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, one of the former Dewans of Travancore, who had come to Trivandrum on the invitation of the public in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Assembly, entered the hall. He was received by the Dewan and seated on the dais. Mr. Madhava Rao was present till the proceedings of the day closed.

187. Responsible Government in Travancore.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI VISWANATHA PILLAI (*Member Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that the future prosperity of Travancore depended upon the establishment of responsible government. The foreign Dewans who ruled in Travancore were able to ruin the interests of the country, because they were not responsible to the people. One foreign Dewan had granted the Kannan Devan Hills, covering about one-thirtieth of the total area of the State, to a European company on a nine hundred and ninenty-nine years' lease. Another foreign Dewan had placed the water of the Periyar river at the disposal of the British Government for a trifling consideration. Under the Interportal Trade Convention concluded with the British Government about the year 1040, Travancore was losing over a lakh of rupees every year. Again, a foreigh Dewan had undertaken to waste Travancore money on the Cochin Harbour. No administrator would dare do any of these things in a country where the Government was responsible for its actions to the people.

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